

Sir Frank Young



W Evans

## Sir FRANK YOUNG

DSC, FRS, FRSC

Sir Frank Young, the eminent biochemist who died on September 20, was one of those whose life and work has greatly affected medical research and medical teaching in Britain during much of this century.

Francis George Young was educated at Alleyn's School in Dulwich and University College London, where he graduated with first class honours in chemistry in 1929. Some of his earliest research work was carried out at the National Institute for Medical Research in Mill Hill in the 1930s on the hormones of the pituitary gland. He later showed conclusively that purified growth hormone could induce permanent diabetes in animals. Diabetes and metabolic research continued to be his absorbing interests, and from his laboratories there issued a steady stream of important scientific papers during the remainder of his professional life. He occupied the chair of biochemistry at University College London, and in 1949 took the chair in the biochemistry department in Cambridge, where he remained until his retirement, holding a fellowship in Trinity Hall and later becoming the master of a new foundation, Darwin College.

Although not medically qualified, Frank Young saw that one of his paramount roles was to encourage the liaison of scientists and doctors in research. It was no accident therefore that he was associated with the Ciba Foundation, and he became chairman of its executive council. He also played a vital part in establishing the

medical and scientific section of the British Diabetic Association, which still provides a unique forum for the exchange of views in science and medicine. On a more personal level, he did all he could to encourage the medically qualified to take up careers in research, particularly basic scientific research.

In the mid-1960s he became a member of the Royal Commission on Medical Education, which set out a blueprint for educational change, and whose recommendations have already had far reaching effects. He saw early on the necessity for a clinical school at Cambridge and gave his enthusiastic support to its establishment. Outside medicine he always maintained an interest in the educational problems of the developing world.

Despite the heavy burden of many committees Frank Young also had the responsibility of running a large department—with great efficiency—at a time of considerable change. Justifiably, many honours came to him; fellowship of the Royal Society at an early stage in his career, and a knighthood in 1975, together with honorary degrees from many parts of the world.

His appearance and manner sometimes seemed formidable to younger colleagues. Many knew that this was a mask; his kindness to those in real need could be boundless. At home he was a generous host. Many must have wondered how, in so busy a life, he found time to attend to his large garden.

He is survived by his wife, Ruth, who practised as a doctor, and their three sons; their daughter predeceased him. — KWT.

## W EVANS

MD, FRCP, DSC

Dr W Evans, who was pre-eminent in British cardiology during and after the second world war, died on 20 September aged 92.

William Evans first embarked on a career in banking, and the transference of his allegiance was a lucky accident of the first world war. Volunteering for service soon after war was declared as a young combatant officer with the Lancashire Fusiliers, he survived the massacres of Passchendaele and of the Ypres salient, being saved from almost certain death on one occasion by the fortuitous timing of home leave. He returned to a nearly annihilated battalion. Graduating MB, BS with distinction at The London Hospital in 1925 after taking a major share of undergraduate prizes, he acknowledged later that the most rewarding of his early appointments was an apprenticeship at the Institute of Pathology. He became assistant physician in the cardiac department of The London in 1938 and subsequently consultant physician there and also at the National Heart Hospital and the Institute of Cardiology. He was also consulting physician to the Royal Navy.

He soon became renowned as an outstanding clinician and teacher and for his contributions to research. He had quickly recognised the need for an efficient central organisation to support research in cardiology and thus helped to create the British Heart Foundation. Before retiring in 1960 he gave many of the named lectures of prestigious colleges and societies in Britain and overseas and as a founder member of the British Cardiac Society served also as a member of council and chairman. A feature of his several books

and publications was perfection in the quality of every illustration, and this he attributed to William Dicks, for many years his loyal senior technician. Having encouraged the recognition of their essential role, he was made first president of the Society of Cardiological Technicians.

He will best be remembered as a teacher. Before a class of students of all degrees of maturity he was splendidly impressive. His seemingly uncontrived method was a mixture of dogmatism, challenge, and unashamed pulpit oratory. Vows were taken, never to be broken, and commandments written down, some to be crossed out. Educationally unconventional, his teaching was invariably effective and, in postwar times of universal dreariness, entertaining, requiring audience participation, and more edifying than Hackney Empire. Also it was free.

William made an indelible impression on his colleagues and assistants, at the bedside and in the rush of outpatient departments. Treatment of heart failure then was restricted to digitalis leaf, mercurials, and morphine, but in addition he provided much comfort and reassurance. Other patients with "unwarranted cardiac invalidism" received succinct advice without equivocation.

Along with Parkinson he discouraged polypharmacy. He also held strong views on certain controversial forms of treatment, rightly condemning the indiscriminate use of anticoagulants after cardiac infarction. But his strictures regarding drugs in hypertension happily were without foundation. He did not oppose innovation and in the early, often tragic, days of open heart surgery gave encouragement to surgeons, especially when their efforts failed. But he would always advocate moderation when zeal exceeded expectation,

*Obituaries of any doctors will be considered for publication provided that the doctors have worked in the United Kingdom for a large part of their career. Obituaries must be submitted exclusively to the BMJ and should be up to about 400 words long; they should be sent within six months, and preferably within three months, of death. "Self written" obituaries are welcome.*



M Hamilton

and the firmness of his advocacy sometimes was greatly to be admired. His original researches on electrocardiography, heart sounds, and the cardiomyopathies, for example, were made before the advent of invasive cardiology. His most enduring legacy, taken far and wide by devoted disciples, is the gospel he preached as a champion of compassion and common sense in treating disease.

He retired to a cottage on the farm in Tregaron where he was born, and he continued to write, mostly on philosophical and historical subjects. A knowledgeable stockman and skilled stonemason, he also took part in various aspects of work on the farm and a few days before his death inspected sheep and cattle grazing the mountain pasture.

His wife, Christina, died in 1964. He is survived by his niece, Miss Frances Evans. —EW.

## M HAMILTON

MD, FRCP, FRCPSYCH, DPM

Emeritus professor M Hamilton, formerly of the University of Leeds, died while on holiday on 6 August aged 76. He will be best remembered for his psychometric approach to the assessment of depressive illness. His paper on the problem of measuring the severity of depression, written in 1960, twice topped the international citation index for medical publications. His monument is the Hamilton rating scale for depression, which is in common use throughout the world.

Max Hamilton was born in Frankfurt. His family emigrated to England when he was 3 years old, settling in east London, where he attended local schools before gaining a place at University College Hospital Medical School, where he qualified MRCS, LRCP in 1934. He returned to the east end, where he worked as a physician in one of the most deprived areas of the country, before entering the Royal Air Force at the outbreak of war. Towards the end of hostilities, when contemplating how best to return to civilian life, he began a correspondence course leading to part I of the diploma in psychological medicine. His reading led him into psychology, and he always claimed that it was R S Woodworth's *Introduction to Psychology* that changed his life.

On demobilisation Max Hamilton entered a career in psychiatry by way of short stays at the Maudsley Hospital, King's College Hospital, and University College London, where he spent some time engaged in research. It was while at University College that he came under the tuition of Sir Cyril Burt and participated in the academic life of many postgraduate students who were later to become internationally renowned in psychology. On leaving University College he took the unusual career step of moving to a post as senior hospital medical officer at Springfield Hospital, south London, where he continued his research into developing reliable objective assessments of affective variables. In 1953 he returned to academic circles, being appointed senior lecturer in psychiatry at the University of Leeds and later professor and head of department in 1963 until his retirement in 1977.

A generation of medical students from the University of Leeds will recall Professor Hamilton's enthusiastic and acerbic performances in the lecture theatres. In particular, fourth year psychiatric clerks will remember his small group teaching in psychiatry, which was characterised by a demand for evidence to back up clinical judgments and his impatient dismissal of the many notions that abounded in psychiatry. Some will recall him as being irascible and demanding, but close colleagues knew of his personal kindness and of his ability to stimulate intellectual debate, which he thoroughly enjoyed. He joined the British Psycho-

logical Society and took a keen interest in its activities, holding several offices culminating in his becoming president in 1973; he was only the second psychiatrist ever to be elected president.

Professor Hamilton continued to do research, write, and present papers at international meetings up to his unexpected death. He is survived by his wife, Doreen; their three children; and two sons of his first marriage. —ARD.

## A SMELLIE

MB, CHB, MRCPSYCH, DPM

Dr A Smellie, formerly a consultant psychiatrist at Lennox Castle Hospital, Glasgow, died on 11 June after a short illness.

Archibald Smellie was born on 2 July 1919 in Wishaw, Lanarkshire, and educated at Wishaw High School before graduating in medicine from Glasgow University in 1943. By coincidence his first house post was at Lennox Castle Hospital, which at that time had an Emergency Medical Service component. Shortly afterwards he joined the Royal Army Medical Corps, serving with the Green Howards from 1944 to 1946. After demobilisation he took up a post at Ballochmyle Hospital, Ayrshire, and then went to Aisla Hospital, Ayr, thus starting his career in psychiatry. In 1949 he married Rebecca (Bec) and moved to Barnsley Hall Hospital, Bromsgrove. He returned to Scotland in 1952 to Bellsdyke Hospital, Larbert, remaining there until his appointment as deputy superintendent at Dykebar Hospital, Renfrewshire. In 1968 he returned to Lennox Castle as consultant psychiatrist, and he worked there until his retirement from full time duties in 1979. He continued in part time work, mainly at Gartloch Hospital, Glasgow, until 1984.

A quiet unassuming man, Archie was nevertheless a person to whom many turned for help and advice. Throughout his life he held deep religious beliefs, serving for many years as an elder in the Church of Scotland. An active supporter of the local community, he was also interested in bowling and a keen gardener. Above all he was a devoted family man. He is survived by Bec; his daughter, Maida, herself a doctor; his son, Sandy; and his three grandsons. —MMcK, GMI.

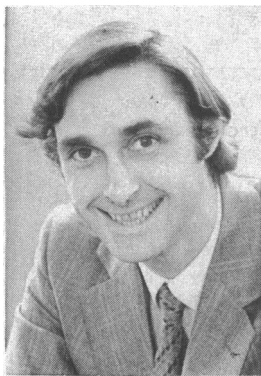
## W A J DOBSON

MB, CHB

Dr W A J Dobson, formerly a medical officer to the National Coal Board, died on 12 July.

William John Atkinson Dobson was born on 20 September 1927 in High Blantyre, Lanarkshire, and educated at Hamilton Academy and Uddingston Grammar School; from there he proceeded to Glasgow University, where he graduated in 1945. After house appointments at Glasgow Royal Infirmary and Ballochmyle Hospital he served in the Royal Air Force in the Middle East from 1946 to 1948, being demobilised with the rank of squadron leader. After three years in general practice in Hamilton he entered occupational medicine with the National Coal Board; this was to be his career for the next 32 years.

In 1951 the Ayrshire coalfield consisted of more than 30 collieries, but successive closure meant that Bill was looking after only four collieries at the time he retired. When he took up his appointment he was given permission to farm East Hillhead Farm in Mauchline, only yards across the main road from Mossgiel, which Burns once farmed. So, with family help and efficient management, he continued two careers for more than 30 years. He had a lifelong love of animals, bred Friesians, and was in demand as a judge of cattle, which gave him much pleasure.



DL Leaming

Bill was a keen Rotarian, being a past president of the Rotary Club in nearby Cumnock. He also served St Andrew's Ambulance Association in several capacities. Sadly, he had a coronary thrombosis in 1983 and took early retirement that year. Next he had to give up his beloved farm, though he moved to a delightful house in Cumnock. A delightful companion, he is survived by two sons, two daughters, and four grandchildren.—RMA.

### DL LEAMING

MRCS, LRCP, FFARCS, DA

Dr D L Leaming, who was a consultant anaesthetist at North Tees General Hospital, Stockton on Tees, died on 27 July aged 43.

Douglas Leslie Leaming was born in Woking on 5 July 1945 and qualified in medicine at St Mary's Hospital, London, in 1968. His preregistration year was in Ashford, Middlesex. He did his anaesthetic training initially in Nottingham and then as registrar at the Royal Hospital, Sheffield, and as senior registrar at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle upon Tyne. He was appointed consultant at North Tees General Hospital in 1974.

At North Tees he was largely responsible for setting up an obstetric epidural service and encouraged the midwives to become proficient in managing patients requiring epidurals. He was a former chairman of his cogwheel division and member of the medical executive committee. An enthusiastic member of the BMA, he was Stockton on Tees division's representative to the annual representative meeting from 1978 to 1986 and on the meeting's agenda committee in 1982; a member of the private practice committee (1982-4), Central Committee for Hospital Medical Services (1983), and Hospital Junior Staff Committee (1984-5); and assistant secretary of the Stockton on Tees division (1984-5) and honorary secretary from 1985 until his resignation due to ill health in late 1987.

Doug was a keen sailor, and the boat he acquired a few years ago was his pride and joy. He was a good pianist with a classical background. His favourite sport was cricket, and he had played for the hospital and Stockton doctors' teams. Cancer was diagnosed in November last year, and he bore his illness with great courage. He is survived by his wife, Helen, and their daughters, Charlotte and Ruth.—RB.

### A BUCHANAN BARBOUR

OBE, MRCS, LRCP

Dr A Buchanan Barbour, formerly director of medical services for British European Airways, died on 13 August after a long illness courageously borne. He was 81.

Archibald Buchanan Barbour originally entered the shipbuilding industry and served his apprenticeship as an engineer at Kincaid's Shipyard, Greenock. He later decided, however, to study medicine and qualified at St Bartholomew's Hospital Medical School in 1935. After the usual house appointments he went into general practice in Maidenhead, Berkshire, where he was also honorary physician to Maidenhead Hospital. On the outbreak of the second world war he was asked by Lord Beaverbrook to set up a medical service for the new Air Transport Auxiliary, a body of volunteer men and women pilots who flew new aircraft from factories to the front line squadrons. At the end of the war he was awarded the OBE for his service as chief medical officer.

He joined the newly formed British European Airways at Northolt in 1946 as its chief medical officer

and subsequently was director of medical services until his retirement in 1964. He was internationally known in aviation medicine, becoming a fellow and later vice president of the Aerospace Medical Association. He was also a president of the Airline Medical Directors Association and a fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society. As county surgeon of the St John Ambulance Brigade for Berkshire he set up in 1947 the first "air unit" in the country, training people to accompany patients being transported by air. This led to the introduction of the St John Air Attendants Organisation and later to the St John Air Wing. He became a commander of the Order of St John.

His interests were many. He was an expert on ergonomic design, and the occupational medical units he designed were full of practical labour saving devices. A member of the Worshipful Company of Basketmakers, he had been a keen member of the City Livery lodge since 1948. He was a keen yachtsman and belonged to several clubs. He is survived by his wife, Barbara.—FP.

### SA WAY

MRCS, LRCP, FRCS, FRCOG

OANH writes: Stanley Way (obituary, 20-27 August, p 550) was one of a small band of enthusiastic pioneers in setting up cytology screening within his gynaecological department in the mid-1950s. After visiting Dr Papanicolaou and Dr Ruth Graham in the United States he set up the Newcastle screening centre to achieve a volume of work unmatched in the United Kingdom at that time. He was a founder member, treasurer, and then chairman of the newly founded British Society for Clinical Cytology from 1961 and with his inimitable ingenuity gave radio and television appeals on the steps of Durham Castle at the society's second annual scientific meeting to raise a large amount of money for the society's coffers. He also ran one of the five national cytology training schools established to train a cadre of competent cytologists for the national screening programme. A fearless and outspoken, but most likeable man, he gave a great stimulus to this cause.

**Mr R W B Holland**, CBE, FRCS(ED), a missionary and ophthalmic surgeon, died on 1 August aged 74. "Ronnie" Holland was the son of distinguished missionary parents and studied medicine at Edinburgh University, graduating in 1937. He soon joined his father and elder brother to form a medical mission team in Quetta. He became an extremely skilled and innovative ophthalmic surgeon with a working knowledge of anaesthetics and worked among thousands of people in Baluchistan, Sind, and Afghanistan. After his retirement from missionary work he was appointed consultant to the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind. He was fascinated by every aspect of the world about him, and his friendship with the local tribal chiefs and knowledge of the Baluchi and Brahui languages led to the only Brahui translation of the New Testament.

**Dr J H English**, BDENTSC, FFARCSI, latterly a consultant anaesthetist in The Netherlands, died on 14 July aged 62. He was a regular officer in the Grenadier Guards before studying medicine at Trinity College, Dublin, where he graduated in 1959. He started a dental practice in west London and 10 years later turned to anaesthesia, which he practised briefly in London before being appointed consultant anaesthetist at St Joseph's Hospital, Oosterhout, The Netherlands.